

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims, in the applications.

Claims 1-19 (Withdrawn).

Claim 20 (Original): A method of controlling the growth of microorganisms, comprising the steps of:

- (a) preparing stabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite having a pH at least 11 by mixing a chlorine oxidant including alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite with a stabilizer selected from the group consisting of acid amide derivatives of carbonic acids, carboxylic acids, amino acids, and sulfuric acids in an alkali solution;
- (b) preparing a bromide ion source; and
- (c) sequentially or simultaneously introducing the stabilized alkali or alkaline earth metal hypochlorite prepared in step (a) and the bromide ion source prepared in step (b) into a habitat of microorganisms up to 0.1 to 10 ppm total halogen residual.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in ~~claim 21 claim 20~~, wherein the stabilized hypochlorite and the bromide ion source is added to a habitat of microorganisms to 0.2 to 5 ppm total halogen residual.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The method as set forth in ~~any of claims 20 to 22, claim 20 or claim 22~~, wherein the water system is selected from the group consisting of swimming pools, hot springs, ponds, water slides, and industrial water systems, such as cooling towers of buildings or plants, paper-making processes, wastewater recycling systems, gas scrubber systems, freshwater systems, or air washer systems.